

Application No.: 09/898,463
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.111
Reply to Office Action dated July 12, 2005
October 12, 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please substitute the following claims for the pending claims with the same numbers respectively:

Claim 1 (Original): A medical examination system for scheduling an appointment for patients comprising:

a plurality of wireless display devices that have a display part and a communication part held by each patient waiting for a medical examination; and

a server including a plurality of ~~virtual reality~~ displays ~~corresponding to~~ , said plurality of displays being capable of displaying guidance information including appointments included in a scheduler and displaying information from said respective wireless display devices, a wireless communication means for communicating, and a scheduler of medical examination appointments with said respective wireless display devices, wherein said scheduler includes:

a waiting queue means for individual medical examination items for forming waiting queues for each of a plurality of medical examination items and sequentially ~~queueing~~ queuing the medical examination appointments of the patients, and a waiting

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queue means for individual patients for forming waiting queues for each patient and sequentially ~~queueing~~ queuing medical examination items for which appointments are ~~to be made~~ scheduled,

said scheduler includes means for ~~making~~ scheduling a first appointment for ~~one~~ a first medical examination of said medical examination items so that ~~the~~ an available time ~~when the patient can receive a~~ to start said first medical examination on said medical examination items is calculated ~~to start at an earliest possible time on said medical examination items which are registered in said waiting queue means for individual patients and in said waiting queue means for individual medical examination items, and~~

said scheduler includes means for ~~making~~ scheduling at least a second appointment for ~~another~~ a second medical examination of said medical examination items so that ~~the~~ an available time ~~when the patient can receive a~~ to start said second medical examination on said medical examination items is calculated ~~to start at an earliest possible time after the first appointment which has been previously confirmed with respect to remaining queues of said waiting queue means for individual medical items, and the second appointment time is calculated to start at an earliest possible time on said medical examination items which~~

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~~are registered in said waiting queue means for individual patients and in said waiting queue means for individual medical examination items;~~

wherein said server includes means for forming information concerning medical examination guidance including an individual medical examination order, a starting time and an order of said medical examination items based on said waiting queue means for individual patients and said waiting queue means for medical examination items, on one of said ~~virtual reality~~ plurality of displays of said server for respective patients, and

wherein said wireless display devices display the waiting queues for the respective patient as a queue data structure and guidance relating to a medical examination route in a form of at least one of dynamic maps and directions to a next scheduled medical examination item appointment to individual patients via said wireless communication means of said server.

Claim 2 (Currently amended): The medical examination system according to claim 1,

wherein said scheduler includes means for maintaining an unconfirmed state of an entire appointment process in case an interval between a starting time of the first appointment and a completion time of an appointment for a last medical examination

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item becomes at least equal to a predetermined amount of time and one of said medical examination items starts with an empty queue time period and means for changing the empty queue time period to a void queue time period that cannot be utilized again, and

means for repeating an appointment process and means for confirming the entire appointment process when an interval between the starting time of the first appointment and the completion time of the appointment for said last medical examination item becomes less than the predetermined amount of time and ~~a time period for one of said first~~ medical examination ~~item does not start from an~~ items starts with a non-empty queue time period.

Claim 3 (Currently amended): The medical examination system according to claim 2,

wherein said server includes means for allowing ~~its~~ a database of said server to be accessed from an external network.

Claim 4 (Currently amended): The medical examination system according to claim 1,

wherein said scheduler includes means for determining ~~a condition where~~ at least one of when no confirmation is given from a first patient, who has completed an appointment, during a

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predetermined time period before an appointment time of ~~one of~~
~~said~~ a first medical examination ~~items~~ item of the waiting queue
means for individual patients ~~corresponding to~~ and when a second
patient, who has an appointment, has applied for cancellation ~~of~~
~~a medical examination appointment and for determining a condition~~
~~where a patient previously applied for cancellation, said~~
scheduler further includes means for eliminating at least one of
the appointment of the first patient and the appointment of the
second patient from said waiting queue means for individual
patients, and means for moving all at least one of the remaining
patients, who have been queued in said waiting queue means for
individual medical examination items, to an empty queue, which
eliminated the at least one of the appointment of the first
patient and the appointment of the second patient, so that
~~reappoints~~ reappointments become possible ~~for this time~~ and means
for providing notices of cancellation to patients who have been
queued in the waiting queue means and have not made appointments
scheduled an appointment and means for providing notices of
change of appointments are given to patients who have already
made appointments.

Claim 5 (Currently amended): The medical examination system
according to claim 4,

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wherein said server includes means for allowing ~~its~~ a
database of said server to be accessed from an external network.

Claim 6 (Currently amended): The medical examination system
according to claim 1,

wherein said scheduler includes means for determining when a
patient completes a medical examination for one of said medical
examination items and for eliminating an entry related to the
medical examination from said queue and means for determining
when the patient does not complete a medical examination in a
predetermined amount of time and for changing times of patients
in said waiting queue means for individual medical examination
items to a next appointment time period that is available so as
to be delayed while following ~~the~~ said waiting queue means for
individual patients.

Claim 7 (Currently amended): The medical examination system
according to claim 6,

wherein said server includes means for allowing ~~its~~ a
database of said server to be accessed from an external network.

Claim 8 (Currently amended): The medical examination system
according to claim 1,

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wherein said server includes means for allowing ~~its~~ a
database of said server to be accessed from an external network.

Claim 9 (Currently amended): The medical examination system
according to claim 1, said medical examination system further
comprises:

a personal computer installed in a medical examination site,
wherein said personal computer comprises a communication means
for communicating at close range with the wireless display device
carried by ~~the~~ a patient, a communication means for communicating
with said server and a control means for outputting information
relating to completion of the medical examination of the patient.

Claim 10 (Currently amended): The medical examination
system according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 11, said medical examination
system further comprises:

a personal computer installed in a medical examination site,
wherein said personal computer comprises a communication means
for communicating at close range with the wireless display device
carried by ~~the~~ a patient, a communication means for communicating
with said server and a control means for outputting information
relating to at least one of arrival of the patient and completion
of the medical examination of the patient.

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Claim 11 (Currently amended): A medical examination system
for scheduling an appointment for patients comprising:

a plurality of wireless display devices that have a display
part and a communication part held by each patient waiting for a
medical examination; and

a server including a plurality of ~~virtual reality~~ displays
~~corresponding to~~ , said plurality of displays being capable of
displaying guidance information including appointments included
in a scheduler and displaying information from said respective
wireless display devices, a wireless communication means for
communicating, ~~and a scheduler of medical examination~~
~~appointments~~ with said respective wireless display devices,
wherein said scheduler includes:

a waiting queue means for individual medical examination
items for forming waiting queues for each of a plurality of
medical examination items and sequentially ~~queueing~~ queuing the
medical examination appointments of the patients, and a waiting
queue means for individual patients for forming waiting queues
for each patient and sequentially ~~queueing~~ queuing medical
examination items for which appointments are ~~to be made~~
scheduled,

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said scheduler includes means for ~~making~~ scheduling a first appointment for ~~one~~ a first medical examination of said medical examination items so that ~~the~~ an available time ~~when the patient can receive a~~ to start said first medical examination on said medical examination items is calculated ~~to start at an earliest possible time on said medical examination items which are registered in said waiting queue means for individual patients and in said waiting queue means for individual medical examination items, and~~

said scheduler includes means for ~~making~~ scheduling at least a second appointment for ~~another~~ a second medical examination of said medical examination items so that ~~the~~ an available time ~~when the patient can receive a~~ to start said second medical examination on said medical examination items is calculated ~~to start at an earliest possible time after the first appointment which has been previously confirmed with respect to remaining queues of said waiting queue means for individual medical items, and the second appointment time is calculated to start at an earliest possible time on said medical examination items which are registered in said waiting queue means for individual patients and in said waiting queue means for individual medical examination items;~~

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said scheduler further includes means for determining that a completion time for an appointment for one of said medical examination items is delayed for at least an average time required for the medical examination on said one of said medical examination items and means for utilizing an empty queue time period in said waiting queue means for individual medical examination items so that a time for a next appointment is available for each of said medical examination items, said scheduler further includes means for representing a starting time as a leading queue when an empty queue time period exists within said queue and for representing a starting time when no empty queue time periods ~~exists~~ exist by the time immediately after the final patient completes a medical examination appointment so that the time is registered with said waiting queue means for individual patients and said waiting queue means for individual medical examination items by calculating the time so as to start from a time when an appointment is available in an earliest medical examination item,

wherein said server includes means for forming information concerning medical examination guidance including an individual medical examination order, a starting time and an order of medical examination items based on said waiting queue means for individual patients and said waiting queue means for medical

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examination items, on one of said ~~virtual reality~~ plurality of
displays of said server for respective patients, and

wherein said wireless display devices ~~displays~~ display the
waiting queues for the respective patient as a queue data
structure and guidance relating to a medical examination route in
a form of at least one of dynamic maps and directions to a next
scheduled medical examination item appointment to individual
patients via said wireless communication means of said server.

Claim 12 (Currently amended): The medical examination
system according to claim 11,

wherein said scheduler includes means for maintaining an
unconfirmed state of an entire appointment process in case an
interval between a starting time of the first appointment and a
completion time of an appointment for a last medical examination
item becomes at least equal to a predetermined amount of time and
one of said medical examination items starts with an empty queue
time period and means for changing the empty queue time period to
a void queue time period that cannot be utilized again, and

means for repeating an appointment process and means for
confirming the entire appointment process when an interval
between the starting time of the first appointment and the
completion time of the appointment for said last medical

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examination item becomes less than the predetermined amount of time and ~~a time period for one of~~ said ~~first~~ medical examination ~~item does not start from an~~ items starts with a non-empty queue time period.

Claim 13 (Currently amended): The medical examination system according to claim 12,

wherein said server includes means for allowing ~~its~~ a database of said server to be accessed from an external network.

Claim 14 (Currently amended): The medical examination system according to claim 11,

wherein said scheduler includes means for determining a ~~condition where~~ at least one of when no confirmation is given from a first patient, who has completed an appointment, during a predetermined time period before an appointment time of ~~one of~~ said a first medical examination ~~items~~ item of the waiting queue means for individual patients ~~corresponding to~~ and when a second patient, who has an appointment, has applied for cancellation of ~~a medical examination appointment and for determining a condition where a patient previously applied for cancellation,~~ said scheduler further includes means for eliminating at least one of the appointment of the first patient and the appointment of the

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second patient from said waiting queue means for individual patients, and means for moving all at least one of the remaining patients, who have been queued in said waiting queue means for individual medical examination items to an empty queue, which eliminated the at least one of the appointment of the first patient and the appointment of the second patient, so that ~~reappoints~~ reappointments become possible ~~for this time~~ and means for providing notices of cancellation to patients who have been queued in the waiting queue means and have not made appointments scheduled an appointment and means for providing notices of change of appointments are given to patients who have already made appointments.

Claim 15 (Currently amended): The medical examination system according to claim 14,

wherein said server includes means for allowing ~~its~~ a database of said server to be accessed from an external network.

Claim 16 (Currently amended): The medical examination system according to claim 11,

wherein said scheduler includes means for determining when a patient completes a medical examination for one of said medical examination items and for eliminating an entry related to the

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medical examination from said queue and means for determining when the patient does not complete a medical examination in a predetermined amount of time and for changing times of patients in said waiting queue means for individual medical examination items to a next appointment time period that is available so as to be delayed while following ~~the~~ said waiting queue means for individual patients.

Claim 17 (Currently amended): The medical examination system according to claim 16,

wherein said server includes means for allowing ~~its~~ a database of said server to be accessed from an external network.

Claim 18 (Currently amended): The medical examination system according to claim 11,

wherein said server includes means for allowing ~~its~~ a database of said server to be accessed from an external network.

Claim 19 (Currently amended): A method for scheduling an appointment of a medical examination ~~method~~ for patients, said method comprising the steps of:

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providing a plurality of wireless display devices, having a display part and a communication part, to a patient waiting for a the medical examination;

providing a server including a plurality of ~~virtual reality~~ displays ~~corresponding to~~ , the plurality of displays being capable of displaying guidance information including appointments included in a scheduler and displaying information from the respective wireless display devices, a wireless communication means for communicating, and a scheduler of medical examination appointments with the respective wireless display devices,

forming waiting queues for individual medical examination items, and

forming waiting queues for each patient,

~~making scheduling~~ a first appointment for one a first medical examination of the medical examination items so that the an available time when the patient can receive a to start the first medical examination on the medical examination items is calculated to start at an earliest possible time for the medical examination items which are registered in the waiting queue for individual patients and in the waiting queue for individual medical examination items ; and [[,]]

~~making scheduling~~ at least a second appointment for another a second medical examination of the medical examination items so

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that ~~the~~ an available time ~~when the patient can receive a to~~
start the second medical examination on the medical examination
items is calculated ~~to start at an earliest possible time~~ after
the first appointment which has been previously confirmed with
respect to remaining queues of the waiting queues for individual
medical items, ~~and the second appointment time is calculated to~~
~~start at an earliest possible time on the medical examination~~
~~items which are registered in the waiting queue for individual~~
~~patients and in the waiting queue for individual medical~~
~~examination items;~~

~~forming~~ providing information concerning medical examination
guidance including an individual medical examination order, a
starting time and an order of the medical examination items based
on the waiting queue for individual patients and the waiting
queue for medical examination items, on one of the ~~virtual~~
~~reality~~ plurality of displays of the server for respective
patients; and

displaying the waiting queues for the respective patient as
a queue data structure and guidance relating to a medical
examination route in a form of at least one of dynamic maps and
directions to a next scheduled medical examination item
appointment to individual patients from the server.